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[REDACTED] information on the organization and functioning of the Goshcha Office of Communications. It principally deals with the postal service but also includes information on the telephone and telegraph facilities in Goshcha Rayon. 25X1

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FOREIGN DOCUMENTS DIV.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS - USSR

Postal Service

1. There exist written instructions from the Rovenskaya Oblast postal administration in regard to the checking of contents of mailed parcels, on the basis of which all the offices of the rayons and oblasts (naturally, if it is so in the Rovenskaya Oblast it is the same in all other oblasts of the USSR) are obligated to examine the contents of parcels accepted from senders.

Generally, it is forbidden to enclose in the packages, money, letters, perishable products, products of a liquid form contained in an easily breakable vessel (for example a glass bottle), products which emit an odor, which have an easily flammable substance, and although nothing is said about this in the orders, it may be confidently assumed, explosives and weapons.

Because of these the sender brings the parcel open, and closes it after the examination of the contents by the post office employee who handles the package receiving and delivery window.

The small postal departments under the jurisdiction of the Goshchanskiy Rayon post office in the villages of Bugrin, Babin and Sennoye do not adhere to this regulation, but in the rayon office packages accepted from the senders are examined without exception.

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the rayon post office itself, there is no censorship.

Cases are known [REDACTED] of the rayon public prosecutor coming to the chief of the office and the chief of the office gave orders to the sorters to bring a letter from the shelf to him in his office. This means that the public prosecutor was interested in the examination of some kind of letters.

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The return address of the sender is definitely demanded on registered letters, forwarded letters, packages, printed matter, insured letters and telegrams.

Besides this, postal money orders over 500 rubles and telegraph orders over 300 rubles are ciphered, that is, on them a numerical code is written, corresponding with a special code table, which is decoded in accordance with the same table in the office which pays the addressee of the postal money order. This is done with the aim of averting counterfeit money orders.

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While the common worker of the post office examines the parcels, the chief of the rayon post office personally codes the money orders and the code table is kept in a fireproof safe with a secret combination.

The parcels coming from other post offices and being distributed to the addresses are not examined.

2. Postal Communications are available to all of the citizens of the USSR without limitation, that is, they have the right to send and receive all forms of mail, paying for the postal service according to the existing tariff.

Money orders are not limited (either postal or telegraph); parcels are accepted up to eight kilograms, but actually up to eight kilograms 900 grams.

The parcels must be packed in a strong veneer box. If the parcel is not in such a box, then it must be covered by an unbroken piece of canvas.

Besides this, the parcels must be tied and sealed with a stamp of sealing wax, the so-called metal insurance seal of the post office.

Plain letters are dropped into the post boxes by the citizens, but all remaining types of mail are submitted to the window which has charge of the acceptance and distribution of that given type of mail.

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Examples of packing, addressing and tariffs are exhibited on the premises of each post office and in its branches.

In the post offices and branches there are scales for the weighing of postal material.

The post office operates from nine o'clock in the morning till six o'clock in the evening, daily.

3. A plain letter, on which the return address of the sender is not necessary, can be paid for by a postage stamp glued to it, or not paid for at all if it is expedient to drop it in the post box.

If the letter is not paid for by a postage stamp (that is if there is no stamp pasted on the envelope) then such a letter is called "insufficient" and the addressee receiving the letter is obligated to pay one ruble (even if the stamps are pasted on, but do not amount to the cost of the tariff).

All other types of mail are handled at the corresponding windows of the post office.

Envelopes for letters sometimes are sold together with stamps in the post offices, but they are insufficiently supplied with them. The purchasing of envelopes for letters is rather difficult, because envelopes are not always to be had in the stores of the trading organizations.

Post cards are sold in a sufficient quantity in the post offices.

Boxes for parcels are supposed to be of wood, (veneer boxes are accepted without a covering of canvas) but canvas for covering is not sold in the offices, only in commercial stores (in dry goods, general and village stores).

It is also expedient to acquire cord for the binding of parcels beforehand as the post office does not always have it; also boxes for parcels.

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Needles and thread for the sewing up of canvas coverings must be brought by the senders themselves.

There is no special worker in the rayon post offices who might help pack the parcels. The senders are obligated personally to do this or with the help of some stranger.

Post boxes for packages and letters must be established in every village, but this is not observed in all villages, and if they exist then they are not accurately cleaned out by the village kolkhoz mail carrier.

This is carried out better in the cities and rayon centers.

It is possible to purchase stamps and post cards freely and in any amount from the postal carriers in the villages, in the rayon post office and in its branches.

There is no difference in the dispatching of postal material from various localities.

4. Tariffs:

An ordinary letter weighing up to 20 grams 40 kopeks;

A registered letter weighing up to 20 grams one ruble (each complete or incomplete twenty grams over the original twenty costs 20 kopeks. For example, a registered letter weighing 35 grams cost 1 ruble, 20 kopeks;

Post cards- 25 kopeks;

Two rubles are paid for postal money orders per each 100 rubles;

A telegraph money order of 100 rubles costs 2 rubles, but the price of the telegram itself is added, approximately six rubles;

A tariff exists for the sending of packages depending on the weight of the package and the distance to the destination;

Post cards - 25 kopeks;

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Insured letters cost 2 rubles for each 100 rubles of value;

Insured packages are paid for according to the usual tariff, plus the payment of an insurance premium of 2 rubles for each 100 rubles of value.

5. In the last postwar years the work of the postal service has improved considerably. The delivery of the mail has speeded up. The attitude of the postal workers toward the senders became more attentive and polite, also the mail is more carefully handled in all of the postal branches.

However, there are many cases of damage to the mail in route, thefts of the contents of packages, appropriations of money orders, tardy delivery of correspondence and so on. The Ministry of Communications repeatedly distributes through the post offices, orders with information on the whereabouts and names of persons convicted of one or another criminal act and who incurred administrative or judicial punishment.

There is especially severe punishment for the theft of sums of money from money orders and of contents of packages.

An ordinary letter mailed in the rayon center in Goshcha, goes to the city of Kiev in course of two or three days. When mailed in Rovno, in course of 2 days. This depends on the time of day the letter was dropped in a post box of the rayon office in the morning, before the mail collection, in such a case, the time of delivery is shortened by one day, but if the letter is mailed after the mail collection then it is delayed till the next day. This applies to all other types of mail dispatched from rayon post offices.

Accordingly, the time of posting the mail in the small village branches which do not lie on the main postal routes, but which forward the mail to the rayon offices, under whose jurisdiction they are, influences its time enroute.

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The branches of the rayon post offices, which are located on the main routes receive and dispatch mail independently to the larger centers of communications. In such cases the time enroute equals the time to and from the rayon post offices.

6. Correspondence sent by the air route (air mail) comes to the centers of communication where it is dispatched to the points served by the normal air transport routes, by trucks or horse drawn transportation, and then is forwarded only by airplane to the final air point, from which in turn it is delivered by other types of transportation to its final destination.

Usually it is not advisable to drop air mail letters in the post box, but it is necessary to submit it to the appropriate window of the post office. Although there exists a regulation that while emptying mail boxes the stamped air mail and registered letters should be sorted out and expedited appropriately, the postal workers constantly violate it.

7. In this connection, when a letter is sent registered, it is noted in a receipt book, and a receipt is handed to the sender of the letter, and in case of loss enroute the post office is obligated to reimburse the sender 5 rubles. These letters do not vanish in route and reach the addressee, who upon their delivery signs the so-called Form No 8 (the Form No 8 book serves as evidence for the postmen that the registered letter actually was delivered to the addressee).

8. Letters sent and received from beyond the borders are tied up in so-called international postal packets, written into registers and lists the same as registered letters.

It is better to submit international letters to the window of the post office of communications and not to drop them into post boxes. All the more so as there is a standard form for addressing them and if such a letter is not addressed according to this form, then noticing a breach of rules in address, they return it to the sender.

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9. [] censorship [] 25X1
 is not conducted in the rayon post offices [] 25X1
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 [] letters sent out of the country are not censored, [] 25X1
 [] 25X1
 [] But it seems [] that such letters pass through 25X1
 Moscow. 25X1
 [] postal parcels are examined by a check 25X1
 of their contents, by a worker of the post office who accepts them from
 the senders. It is possible that this does not apply to all the territory
 of the USSR [] 25X1
 [] 25X1

10. The examination of the parcels is primitive, that is a superficial inspection of articles which are forwarded in it, and often they do not compel the senders to pull out and exhibit all of the contents or they do not compel them to untie and unpack the separate bundles and boxes placed in the parcel.

11. On all forms of postal material except ordinary letters the sender is obligated to indicate his personal return address.

The return address is indicated on the lower section of the envelope or blank, or toward the bottom on a parcel, because the address of the receiver as a rule is written toward the top.

12. General delivery letters may be sent to anyone and such letters are not delivered to the addressees, only notifications concerning them, but they wait till the addressee comes for them personally, whereupon the addressee is obligated to show his passport to the postal worker, as general delivery letters are not handed out to strangers. The postal

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workers do not give out any kind of information about the receipt of the letters in answer to the questions of strangers, when he is not convinced by the passport that the person asking about the letter has the right to receive it.

In this respect the post offices are very strict and maintain complete secrecy about the receipt of such letters.

Besides the addressee an authorized person may receive such a letter. That is such a person who has a passport to whom the addressee gave a written power of attorney with his witnessed personal signature (by a notary public, or in the rayon executive committee or in the village soviet).

Such a power of attorney has approximately the following content (such wording power of attorney may serve for the receipt of money orders, packages, registered letters, insured letters etc.

Power of Attorney

I the undersigned, resident of the village Dorogobuzh, Goshchanskiy Rayon, Rovenskaya Oblast, Stepanyuk, Boris Nikolayevich, hereby entrust citizen Dudovetskiy, Ivan Stepanovich to receive in the Goshchanskaya post office a general delivery letter addressed to me from Zhitomir.

Village Dorogobuzh

Stepanyuk

25 January 1952

Signature of citizen Stepanyuk, resident of the village Dorogobuzh, Goshchanskiy Rayon, Rovenskaya Oblast. I witness

President of Goshchanskiy Rayon

Executive Committee - signature

Official Seal

of the Rayon Executive Committee

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Or for example:

Power of Attorney

I, the undersigned, resident of the village Dorogobuzh, Goshchanskiy Rayon, Rovenskaya Oblast, Stepanyuk, Boris Nikolayevich give complete authority to citizen Dubovetskiy, Ivan Stepanovich to receive in the Goshchanskaya post office, 500 rubles in money order form addressed in my name, from Kotovski, Trofim Petrovich in Zhitomir.

Village Dorogobuzh Stepanyuk

25 January 1952

Signature of citizen Stepanyuk, resident of the village Dorogobuzh, Goshchanskiy Rayon, Rovenskaya Oblast I witness.

President of the Dorogobuzh Village

Soviet - Stepanenko

Circular Seal
of the Village Soviet

If the individual who receives the mail has no passport, then he must have a certificate from the village Soviet.

13. It is possible to address envelopes with ink (indelible pencil is allowed but not recommended).

The address must be written clearly and legibly in accordance with the exact instructions of the existing administrative division of the locality. Parcels are addressed with an indelible pencil.

For ordinary letters not only envelopes may be used, but also arbitrarily folded sheets of paper on which nothing but the address shows on the outside.

Addresses are roughly written thus:

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Registered

Goshcha

Rovenskaya Oblast

Ivanyuk, Peter Stepanovich

Sender

Korets, Rovenskaya Oblast

Petrenko, Ivan Grigor'yevich

General Delivery

City Korets, Rovenskaya Oblast

Pochtovaya St. 5 Apt. 7

Ivanyuk, Peter Stepanovich

Sender

Village Simonov, Goshchanskiy Rayon

Rovenskaya Oblast

Petrenko, Ivan Grigor'yevich

If the addressee has left not leaving his new address and notice of change of address, then the letters are returned to the sender with a label pasted on them with the writing, "addressee has moved", but if it is impossible to find the addressee and the letter is not delivered to anyone then on the label of the letter returned to the sender they write, "addressee unknown".

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If the addressee refuses to pay for a postage due letter, then they write on the label, "addressee refused delivery". If such a letter is not reclaimed by the sender, it is retained in the rayon office, just as are letters returned on which the return address of the sender is not shown, or if the addressee has moved, or if the sender is unknown.

(It seems that such letters were dispatched for deposit to the Rovno city post office for a specified period and then according to regulations they are destroyed there.

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Cases occur, where the letters are sent to the wrong address, that is, they are not directed to where they are addressed. Such letters are tied in a postal package and a label pasted on it which reads, "to be forwarded", and they return to the post office which committed the error for forwarding to the correct destination.

Post boxes, for the mailing of ordinary letters, post cards, and postage due letters exist in city and in several places along various streets, also in the rayon centers.

For example, in the rayon center Goshcha of the Rovenskaya Oblast, post boxes are hung at the entrance to the premises of the post office, in the center of the square where the rayon store is located and within two kilometers from the rayon center at the teahouse on the bend of the road leading from the Kiev' Ivov asphalt road.

Besides this, throughout all of the villages there must be mail boxes (although they do not exist in all of them) which usually are hung either close to the premises of the village soviet, or close to the club, school, Sel'po store, that is, in such places which are the most convenient for the population.

The collection of mail from the boxes is very unscheduled, depending on the humor of the postman, who has the key. It is supposed to be

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carried out daily but there are cases when letters lay in the box for several days. This does not occur in the rayon office or its subordinate branches, where the letters are collected one, two or three times a day, both before the dispatching to transit points and then another time.

On all post boxes there is a sign in large printed letters

Post Box

Collection is collected daily

9, 12, 16 hours (the collection hours are established depending on the heads of the post office, in connection with the movement of postal transportation.

Speaking about the prohibition of sending easily inflammable substances by mail in parcels, it is expedient to remember that movie film may be sent only in metal cans with a printed seal of the organization authorized to conduct the distribution of movie film. Such parcels weigh up to twenty kilograms, cubic form.

The village mail carriers collect the mail daily from the rayon post office or from branches under the jurisdiction of the rayon office. In good weather, when the roads between the villages are not covered by deep mud or snow drifts, this regulation is maintained, but in poor weather it is very often broken. Because of the insufficiency of footwear and the great distance to the office or branch, the postmen are not in condition to go on foot daily. The kolkhozes pay for the labor of the postal carriers (15-25 labor days per month) and they are unwilling to or simply do not provide horses for the postal carriers to ride or carts.

The mail is delivered by horse drawn cart from the rayon post offices to the branches which lie far from the main postal routes. For example, in the Sennoye branch of the Goshchanskiy Rayon a cart granted by the village kolkhoz according to an agreement and for the payment of 40 kopeks for each kilometer the horses travel, but in the Bugrin branch by the personal horses of the rayon post office.

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The Babino branch is located on the main postal route between Rovno and Goshcha and the mail is delivered to it by the same truck of the Rovenskiy city post office, which delivers the mail from Rovno to Goshcha and back.

Mail is delivered from the rayon post office to the branches and back, six times a week (except Sunday).

The communications system answers materially for the loss of parcels, insured letters, registered letters, and money orders, reimbursing the losses of the individuals who submitted there articles, in money according to the extent prescribed by law

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money orders are reimbursed in full, registered letters five rubles, insured letters according to the sum for which they were insured, but packages depending on how much and what of their contents was lost.

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Individuals involved with the loss of postal material, or theft, appropriation, embezzlement, forgery and so on, are arraigned either for administrative punishment or for judicial proceedings.

Often the parcels arrive in crumpled, broken, torn packing, due to careless handling of them in route. If the contents of the packages are spoiled or damaged because of these, then documents are drawn up on the degree of damage and the responsible routes of the packages are traced according to the points of passage of the routing slips. This is drawn out for several months and sometimes never reaches a conclusion, especially if the victimized sender or receiver loses patience and does not persist.

Both the sender and the receiver may submit complaints about the loss of material, in the course of six months after the presentation of the material into the post office, producing a written application and the postal system's issued receipt on the acceptance of the material.

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Lists of the workers of other postal systems convicted of theft, plunder, forgery, appropriation and other acts of a criminal nature and of wanted criminals and escapees are sent secretly to the rayon post office.

These lists arrive with instructions, in case of the discovery of the mentioned individuals, to inform the higher up postal organs.

All of the workers of the rayon post office are subordinate to and obligated to fulfill the instructions of the chief of the office, also as are the workers of the branch who in their turn are subordinate to the chief of the branch.

The chief of the rayon post office is subordinate to the chief of the oblast postal administration.

Besides this, the chief of the rayon post office also is obligated to follow the instructions of the rayon committee of the CPSU and the rayon executive committee, which have the right to summon the chief of the office for a report about the work and raise the question of his release before the oblast postal administration.

Dual subordination of the chief of the post office results: directly from the oblast postal administration and indirectly from the management of the rayon. This very much disturbs the fulfillment of the normal work, because at times this rayon leadership places impractical demands or demands which contradict with the orders of the oblast postal administration.

In the line of ordinary work, the chief is also obligated to fulfill all orders of the chiefs of the offices of the oblast postal administration.

Besides this, the rayon committee, CPSU and the rayon executive committee place before the chief of the post office a series of tasks

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having no bearing on postal work, telephone, telegraph, radio and the soviet press, for example: they are commissioned to help the kolkhoz in the harvesting, necessitating the sending of workers with sickles, scythes, and rakes to participate in the threshing, in the gathering of the hay, in the cleaning of grain and so on, with the aim of not allowing the post office to shirk participation in kolkhoz work. They practice, attaching to it two or three hectares to sow, and it is obligated to mow it and tie it into sheaths, help carry it from the field, etc. The workers are compelled to fulfill these tasks without pay and to the detriment of the matter of cultural service of the clientele of the post office.

Also the workers are compelled to participate in the cleaning up in the spring of branches and leaves in the parks, in the planting of trees (which incidentally are planted annually, but it is unknown by whom and when they are broken up). In the winter, the workers go out to clean the snow from the roads, not only in the rayon close to the office, but for one or two kilometers away from it.

This is the so-called public burden, "Sundays", participation in planning and organization of public services.

The chief of the post office is compelled to conduct mass cultural work in the office, and the subscription of state loans by the workers. He compels the workers to come to work a half hour early to listen to a section of the newspaper, to remain after work and learn the biography of Lenin and Stalin, the election results, Stalin's constitution, pamphlets, decisions of the party and government, etc.

Besides this, to conduct production meetings, to study postal regulations, orders and instructions, to adorn the premises with slogans and placards for the first of May or other communistic festivals. All of this is also part of the burden handed to the workers either before or after working hours.

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The chief of the office carries out the general leadership, he tends to the personal matters of the workers, the work books, coding of money orders, signing of all statistical and bookkeeping accounts. He is charged with the financial activities, controlling the execution of the struggle for fulfillment of revenue and exchange (of the plan of revenues and fulfillment of the plan of exchange), he signs bank checks. He is occupied with economy (for example, the office receives two hectares of land for the sowing of fodder for horses; sometimes they only issue one hectare). The office also receives a hay mowing machine, and the workers also fulfill with their own hands the sowing and harvesting of these sections.

The chief answers for the work of all the branches of the rayon post office (mail, telegraph, telephone, radio, soviet press, economy). He is also obligated to occupy himself with training of cadres (so-called technical trainees). To watch over those who study in the mail order course or in the evening secondary school (which in the fall takes a long time to get organized with the day secondary school and finishes its work early. As the workers cannot work and study, because it is seldom that someone succeeds in coping with the work in the course of an eight hour work day and many sit at their desks till 2-3 o'clock in the morning finishing or preparing for the next day).

The deputy of the chief is the secondary individual in the administration of the rayon post office. He is directly the assistant of the chief, but basically he heads the telegraph, telephone section, new construction, repairs, preparation of poles, removal of damage, statistical accounting, etc., and he replaces the chief when he is absent from the office.

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A senior technician of radio broadcasting directs the work of broadcasting, the construction of radio lines and the repairing of them, the construction of a kolkhoz radio broadcasting center, the fulfillment of the plan for increasing radio points among the villages of the rayon, also keeps accounts and so on.

Specialists (they are called overseers of electric communications and overseers of the radio broadcasting center) fulfill the work under the guidance of the deputy chief, and the senior technician of the radio broadcasting center.



Postal agents serve the clientele at the specialized windows of the rayon post office with all types of postal services.

The senior postal agent of the office is the main cashier, he accepts all of the money collected for the day from all of the workers, deposits the superfluous money [i.e., all money except petty cash] in the peoples bank, receives confirmations on the cashing of money orders from the peoples bank on economic expenditures, wages, supplies postage stamps, post cards, envelopes and blanks for all of the local workers and for the branches. He is in charge of the store room where everything of value is stored, and keep a so-called, storeroom record book. He aids other workers in rush hours, giving them a break (postal and telegraph workers), conducts part of the office correspondence, and so on.

The worter distributes the incoming mail and newspapers and sorts the outgoing mail (ordinary section). Issues mail to the mail carriers for delivery, controls the accuracy of the postage for postage due letters, for stamps, etc.

All workers of the mail system, conduct, each for his own branch, calculations and accounts.

The head bookkeeper is in charge of the calculations and accounts, he controls all of the working places, he signs checks and other monetary



documents (the first signature is the chiefs and the second is that of the head bookkeeper). You cannot cash a check if you have the signature of the chief but not that of the head bookkeeper, or if you have the signature of the bookkeeper but not that of the chief.

Telegraphists (they were also renamed overseer of electric communications) are occupied with their direct responsibilities, serving the population by the receiving and transmission of telegrams by telegraph (Morse - there are no other types of telegraph apparatus in the rayon communications office. In oblast telegraphy there are ST35 and Bodo apparatuses (teletype machines) which do not communicate with the rayons, communication is by morse only, with the rayons.

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There are two telegraph operators in the office who work in shifts in the daytime, but at night the telegrams are taken by the telephone operator, by telephone (although he is obligated to know how to work the Morse set, he does not).

The telephone operators serve as the commutator of telephone communications, but in the absence of the telegraph operators they accept telegrams from the clientele.

The postmen deliver correspondence, money orders or notices of them, notices of parcels, insured letters and newspapers.

All these workers sell postage stamps, post cards, envelopes (if they are to be found in the office).

The heads of Post Office sections [postmasters] conduct on a smaller scale the work of post office agents, being simultaneously in charge of the mail carriers and telephone operators under them, and also cashiers, sorters -- in them all the branches of communications, except the radio, seem to be united.

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The rayon organizer for "Soyuzpechat'", who has an assistant, is in charge of the distribution and forwarding of printed matter, i.e., newspapers, magazines, and the retail sales of literary works (belles lettres, but mostly political booklets, posters, slogans, portraits, etc.)

He also is obligated to fulfill a plan, i.e., to distribute a certain number of newspapers, magazines and books evenly over the rayon, so as to have a sufficient amount of printed matter in each village.

At the rayon center there is a newspaper stand, where newspapers, books, portraits, etc., are sold.

The section chief is also loaded with work for the "Soyuzpechat'".

Rural mail carriers are actually kolkhoz employees, because they are paid by the kolkhoz -- they must make deliveries to the homes (which they are unable to do since they must go everyday to the office of communications and to the sections, and, they have neither the time nor the strength to distribute the mail over the village, and, besides, to the separate homesteads).

The mail carriers must also pick up the mail in the village mail boxes, sell stamps, envelopes and post cards, promote the sale of newspapers and magazines, striving to achieve the "limit" (plan), and even accept registered mail and telegrams against receipt -- something which they do not know how to do and do not want to learn, and the post office is unable to force them, since they are paid not by the post office, but by the kolkhoz.

The kolkhoz mail carriers do not stay long on the job, leaving a work which at first glance is easy, but which cannot be carried out: the roads are bad, there are no paved highways, there are no bicycles, the kolkhozes do not provide horses (it happens seldom that a kolkhoz mail carrier has a horse at his disposal), the demands of the population

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regarding regular delivery are quite justified, because the service is bad and people are compelled to run over to the apartment of the mail carrier without any assurance that there is a letter for them and when it will arrive. The superiors, from the chairman of the village Soviet down to the person in charge of the reading rooms are pressing them. The chiefs of the communications office and section demand that they fulfill the Party-government resolution on "Uninterrupted, cultured, and polite service to the people". The chairman of the kolkhoz cannot, or does not want to give a horse, wear it out "for trifling letters", while it could work "for the good of the people" in the kolkhoz..... Therefore the mail carrier cannot "catch up with or outstrip" anyone, and prefers to be thankful "for the great confidence" and refuses to stir up the mud with his bare feet.

The chief of the post office also has many troubles from the postal administration and the Soviet-Party leaders in the rayon because of the mail deliveries, but he cannot do anything, because the same rayon party committee and rayon executive committee are unable to influence the kolkhoz chairmen so that they assign horses for the mail carriers (since there are few horses left in the kolkhozes, and these are half-starved, and often die in the spring).

The rank-and-file workers in the Goshchanskiy Rayon Post Office are almost all local residents (with the exception of two or three).

The chief of the office is an outsider, from the eastern area of the Ukraine SSR, and so is the state messenger (this state messenger is a candidate for membership in the CPSU -- and he is the only Party man in the Goshchanskiy Post Office).

In Rovenskaya Oblast' rayons as a rule all the rank-and-file workers are natives of the western area of the Ukraine, but the chiefs are all outsiders; there are also many outsiders among the deputy chiefs, book-keepers, and all the state messengers for special communications.

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The State messenger for special communications brings the so-called secret mail, that is, receives, sends off, and delivers the correspondence of the MVD, of the MVD Militia, the Rayon Party Committee, the State Bank office, the Financial Section, the Rayon Executive Committee, and other institutions.

This position is filled by people who have undergone a special check-up regarding their political trustworthiness and devotion to the Soviet regime.

Employees of special communications are armed, the rooms where they work have iron grills on the windows, the doors are covered with tin, are locked, and are sealed for the night. In the rooms there are iron boxes (safes).

The envelopes which the special communications worker receives must be stitched through in the middle with a thread, and the ends of the thread as well as the corners of the envelope are sealed with the sealing wax seal of the institution which sends out the mail.

The Rovno City post office (where there is a so-called stamp base) supplies the rayon post office with stamps, post cards, money order blanks, parcel post blanks (also envelopes both stamped and unstamped, that is, with stamps printed on them, and without stamps).

In order to receive these supplies from the Rovno City office, the rayon post office makes out and sends by mail a requisition, stating what is to be sent, and in what quantities.

The bag containing the supplies is sealed with sealing wax and comes to the rayon post office with two copies of an invoice, one of which remains in the rayon post office, and the second is receipted and returned to the stamp base.

In the post office there are posted instructions on how to wrap postal packages, artistically drawn on sheets of paper, also samples of addresses and the rates for shipments.

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On the panes of the glassed-in partition there are instructions; for instance, "sending and payment of money orders", "sending and delivery of parcels, letters containing valuables, general delivery", "sending of telegrams", "telephone station", "Soyuzpechat" (or "section for dissemination and forwarding of printed matter").

It seldom occurs that a rayon has standard quarters with all conveniences, and therefore not all the sections are located in one large room, but often are distributed over several rooms, having respective instructions, or without such instructions.

On the doors of the chief's office there is often a glass sign with the legend "Chief of Office Ivanov", on the accounting department door -- "Senior Accountant Grigoruk".

If there are no inscriptions and someone asks any employee for directions, he will always answer and indicate where, and to whom one should apply, not surprised at being asked, even if the question refers to wrapping, addressing, the cost of sending, etc., because very many customers do not know what is required by the post office and often ask questions and consult with the employees of the communications office.

Telephone Communications

14. Much of what has been said about postal communications applies equally to the telephone and telegraph communications.

Telephone calls may be placed from the trunk call office of the communications office and from its branch offices, from apartment telephones at the expense of the telephone's owner (ordinary citizens do not have telephones in private apartments). One may also telephone from institutions with the agreement of the chief, from village soviets, from kolkhozes, from some schools which are on the telephone, etc., at the expense of these institutions.

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The best time in respect to service by the telephone network for long distance calls (to remote cities) is after 6 o'clock P.M., when most of the institutions have stopped working and the telephone lines are less busy with conversations, or in the morning, before 9 A.M. (also during the night).

15. The cost of a telephone conversation depends on the distance, and the urgency of the call (calls are classified as regular, urgent, and lightning).

A call not far beyond the borders of a given rayon costs 50 kopeks for one minute, but there is a minimum of three minutes. To cities located further, 1 ruble 20 kopeks per minute.

Within the rayon it is 20 kopeks for one minute.

there is a special schedule for calls, showing exactly the place, the cost, and the classification of the call.

A call from a public call booth in Kiev to a subscriber in the city costs 15 kopeks.

In the rayons all the telephones are usually "MB", which means -- local battery, with a hand inductor for calling. This is an old type of telephone, the wall or table model, the microphones of which feed from two dry elements of 1.50²⁵ each, and to call the telephone exchange, or another number, one must crank the handle of the inductor, which sends an alternate current to the bell of the other telephone.

16. Each telephone installation must have printed lists of subscribers, but they are found only in large cities and sometimes in rayon centers.

When there is no list of subscribers, the customer who wishes to call someone, gives his last name and is connected, if it is in a small town where the telephone operators know all the subscribers. If it is

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in a large town, one must call the information office of the telephone exchange, or the operator herself obtains information on the desired subscriber, after which she makes a connection.

The information office needs only the last name, but one may mention the position and the name of the institution in which the subscriber works.

When a person knows a telephone number he can find out, from the list of subscribers, the name of the subscriber, but it seems to me that there is no address given; knowing the name of the subscriber one can find out the address from the operators in a small town, and from the address bureau in a large city.

17. In the rayon communications offices no surveillance is exercised over telephone conversations, and I do not know, and have heard no rumors, about what is done in the oblast centers and large cities in this respect.

18. In order to use his phone a new subscriber must pay the cost of installing the phone and make an advance payment to the rayon communications office. The advance payment is equivalent to the cost of the estimated calls for the next month (one should bear in mind the fact that a rank-and-file resident will not get a telephone installed in his apartment, only the institutions and important persons can have them). On the basis of the advance paid in an account is opened for the subscriber by the bookkeeping section of the communications office, and as the subscriber is given a monthly statement of his account, from which he sees the amount remaining and the amount spent. No calls can be made on credit.

A subscriber who has a credit balance may make calls at any time of the day or night to any city.

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Calls can also be made by persons, whom the subscriber authorizes to use his telephone and his credit balance.

Calls from the trunk call office of the communications office can also be made to any place.

In order to make a call from the trunk call office it is necessary to first pay to the cashier of the telephone exchange an amount covering the cost of the planned call, and upon completion of the call the telephone exchange issues a receipt for the amount of the actual cost of the call.

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payment must be made

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by the person making a call, and not the one receiving it.

There are person to person calls

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a person living in another town, who has no telephone in his apartment;

notify the telephone exchange, informing them of the exact

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address, the last name, first name and patronymic, or only the last name of the person

Upon receipt notification

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the telephone exchange places a call for a certain hour, and notifies the person being called, who comes to the trunk call office of his town at the appointed time and talks to me.

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it seems

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the telephone exchange does not ask for documents, and is satisfied

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with his announcement by word of mouth that he has come in accordance with a call at the time specified this is the way it is done in the rayon exchanges).

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The delay in putting through a call depends on the load on the telephone lines, but usually it is not more than one hour; in this respect things are better during the morning and evening-night hours, when the institutions do not clutter up the lines and the load on the telephone exchanges is less.

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[redacted] Far-away cities may be called from the trunk call office (and from subscribers' telephones); [redacted] the telephone exchange of the Goshchanskiy Communications Office in the Rovenskaya Oblast placed calls to Moscow, Kiev, L'vov, Stalino, Vladivostok and other remote cities, and the audibility was good and the customers were satisfied.

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Nevertheless during the hours of the heavy daytime load it is more difficult to get connected with distant cities than during the morning and evening hours, because the relay exchanges often answer that their lines are "busy" and give warning that the call may not be put through till a certain time.

Calls to places not so distant usually go through without special difficulties, and the urgent and lightning calls are put through first, without consideration for the regular calls.

One must add even that it is easier and quicker to place a call from a trunk call office than from an apartment and institutional telephone because the operators give more consideration to the persons waiting at the trunk call office than to the other customers.

Telegraph Communications

20. Normally telegrams are accepted at the telegraph office of communications offices and their branches.

In the villages where there is a communications sections the rural mail carriers must accept telegrams, but in practice this is not done because they do not know how to do it and do not want to accept telegrams, and even if they accept them the telegrams are usually mutilated because of the incorrect count of words, inexact address and other mistakes and oversights, or are returned for corrections to the village by the communications section.

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"otravlyus' [I am poisoning myself] 25 January"... instead of "otpravlyus' [I am starting out] 25 January...", and the customers' friends brought him a coffin instead of wedding presents...

Upon accepting a telegram and checking the correctness of the address and grammar, the telegraph office issues a receipt to the customer, in which is shown the address of the destination, the number of words, the cost, and the time of filing.

The receipt carries an impression of a date stamp and the signature of the clerk accepting the telegram.

21. The cost of one word of a regular telegram is 30 kopeks, for one word of an urgent telegram -- one ruble, and for one word of a "lightning" - 1.50 rubles.

The average cost of a regular telegram is 6-8 rubles, of an urgent - 20-26 rubles, and a "lightning" 30-40 rubles.

The "lightning" telegrams are transmitted faster than the urgent ones, and the urgent telegrams - faster than the regular ones.

22. Private individuals may send telegrams without any restrictions to any place of the USSR, but the delivery of telegrams to localities where there is no telegraph office is delayed, because, for instance, a telegram received over the telegraph (or over the telephone) in a post office is delivered to the addressee by the mail carrier, like an ordinary letter, because the villages located within a radius of 10-15 kilometers from a post office receive their mail by mail carrier.

23. There are arrangements for sending telegrams abroad, and such telegrams were accepted in the Rovenskaya Oblast telegraph office,

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In the Goshchanskiy Rayon Communications Office telegrams for abroad were not accepted.

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25. Telegrams are usually transmitted within three-four hours and are delivered during the same, or next day.

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There are provisions for telegrams with a prepaid answer, that is, the sender of the telegram pays the cost of the telegram he sends and in addition a certain sum, for instance 5-10 rubles, over the cost, so that the recipient (the addressee) may be able to reply by telegram without spending any money of his own.

Also there are telegrams to be delivered by special messenger, i.e., a courier, a messenger, but in practice this is not done in the villages.

Radio

27. The owners of radio receiving sets must register their receiving sets with the rayon communications offices (in the oblast city it seems this is done at the radio management office).

28. All the citizens of the USSR have the right to purchase freely and use radio receiving sets. For using a radio receiving set payment must be made as follows: for a set with tubes - 36 rubles per year; for a detector set - 5 rubles per year.

The owners a given a certificate of registration and, in case of sale or breakdown of the set, must notify the rayon communications office in writing, since otherwise the fees for the use will accrue and will be collected forcibly.

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All citizens are permitted to purchase and use radio receiving sets; I do not know whether this applies to the border zones or areas.

29. Radio receiving sets are sold in trading organizations, and may be bought from individuals who wish to sell their sets.

30. Spare parts for radio receiving sets may be purchased freely if they are available in trading organizations, because often there are not even any radio tubes. [REDACTED]

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One may also purchase some parts in city and rayon trading organizations' stores and also from someone who knows someone among the workers of radio stations; in the cities there are some radio men who do repairs and fixings in an amateurish way, not on a large scale, because they fear the taxes which are levied by the financial sections on persons doing work at home. No radio receiving sets or parts are sold on the markets.

31. Although it is not officially forbidden to listen to broadcasts from abroad, all the owners of radio receiving sets know that in practice it is dangerous, because they may be accused of anti-Soviet propaganda, counterrevolution, nationalism, etc., and therefore if someone listens, he does it in secret.

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[REDACTED] control

exists on the part of various people who are faithful to the regime, and who report their observations to the MVD.

The existence of unregistered radio receiving sets must be reported to the rayon communications office by the village mail carriers, this is checked by the workers of the radio stations, and the heads of village post offices.

Those who use unregistered radio receiving sets are subjected to monetary fines, and notices to this effect are posted in the villages and towns and advertisements are inserted in the newspapers.

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Speaking of radio in the USSR one must mention that there exists a Government regulation regarding installation of radio sets in all the populated centers through a wide development of the transmission (aerial and underground lines) network from the radio center in the kolkhozes and in the communications offices.

Such radio centers receive radio broadcasts from Moscow and Kiev according to the established program during definite hours.

Radio loudspeakers are installed in apartments, the inhabitants paying 5 rubles, and the kolkhozes 4 rubles per month for their use.

The oblast postal administration sends to the rayon post offices lists of remote northern areas of the USSR, for which parcels cannot be accepted or sent temporarily, for one or two months (this is because in these areas normal movement of transportation over rivers, is discontinued when the rivers freeze).

In such cases the parcels which had been accepted through an oversight of the post office employees are often turned back after going part of the way, and the sender must pay the cost of returning the parcel.

This gives rise to complaints against the employees of the post office and some senders refuse to accept the returned parcels, figuring that the cost of returning them is equal to, or higher than the cost of contents of the parcel.

It may also happen that a recipient refuses to accept a money transfer, because he figures that the amount of the money transfer received from the Social Security Department is unjustifiably low, or money which has been sent by some institution in payment for work is not fairly figured -- in such cases the money transfer is returned to the sender.

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There are indications that parcels and money transfers, as well as telegrams, cannot be accepted from senders - military personnel, whose address shows the number of a field post office and does not indicate the town, that means that there are military units in which soldiers are not permitted to give their address with the name of the cities.

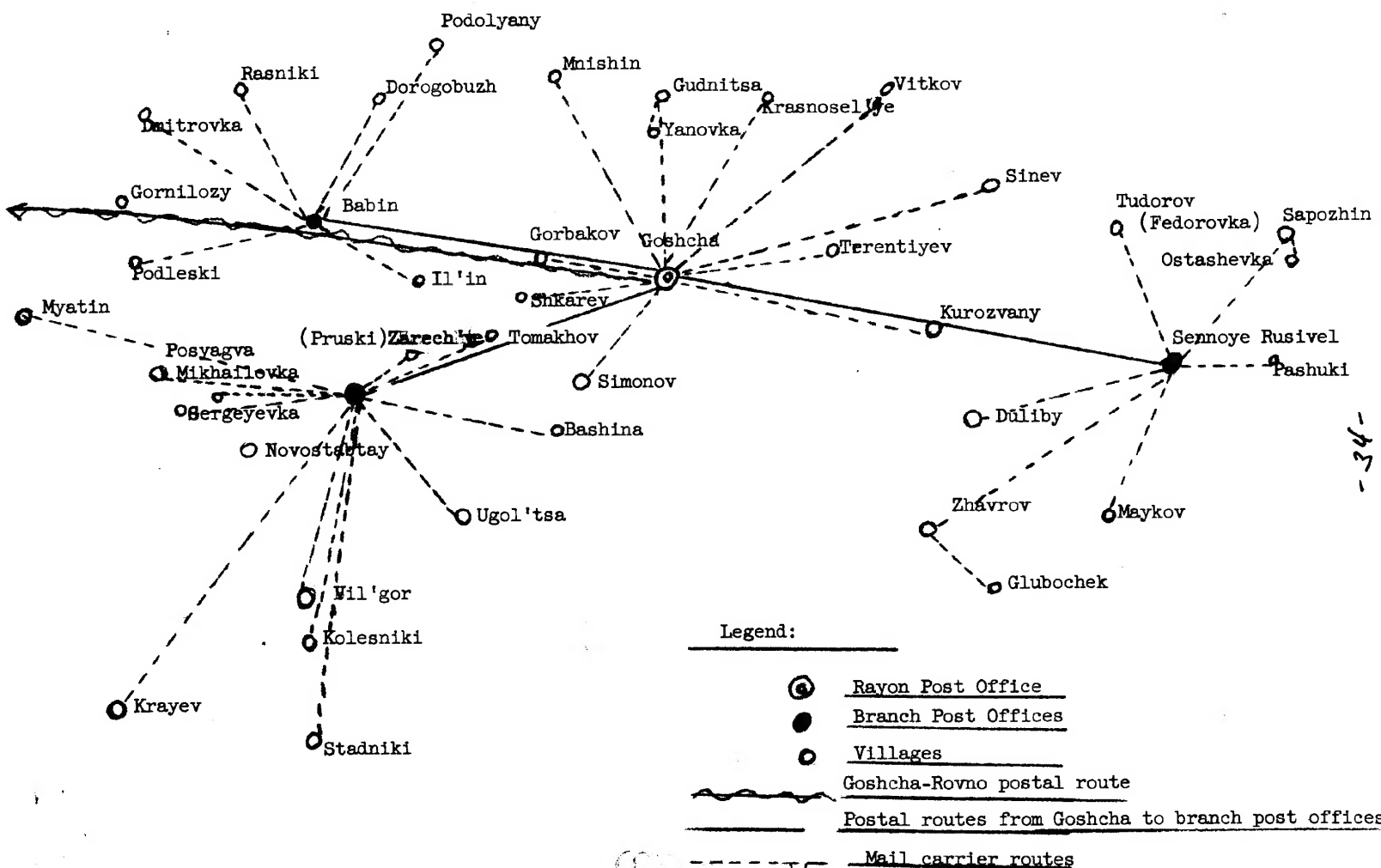
Sometimes it happens that when the mail box at the doors of the post office is being emptied, among the letters there are found documents (passports, military record booklets, etc.), which had been stolen by pickpockets at the market from the pockets of gaping citizens and have been placed in the mail box by these pickpockets, who know that the documents will be returned to the owners by the post office, or handed on to the militia.

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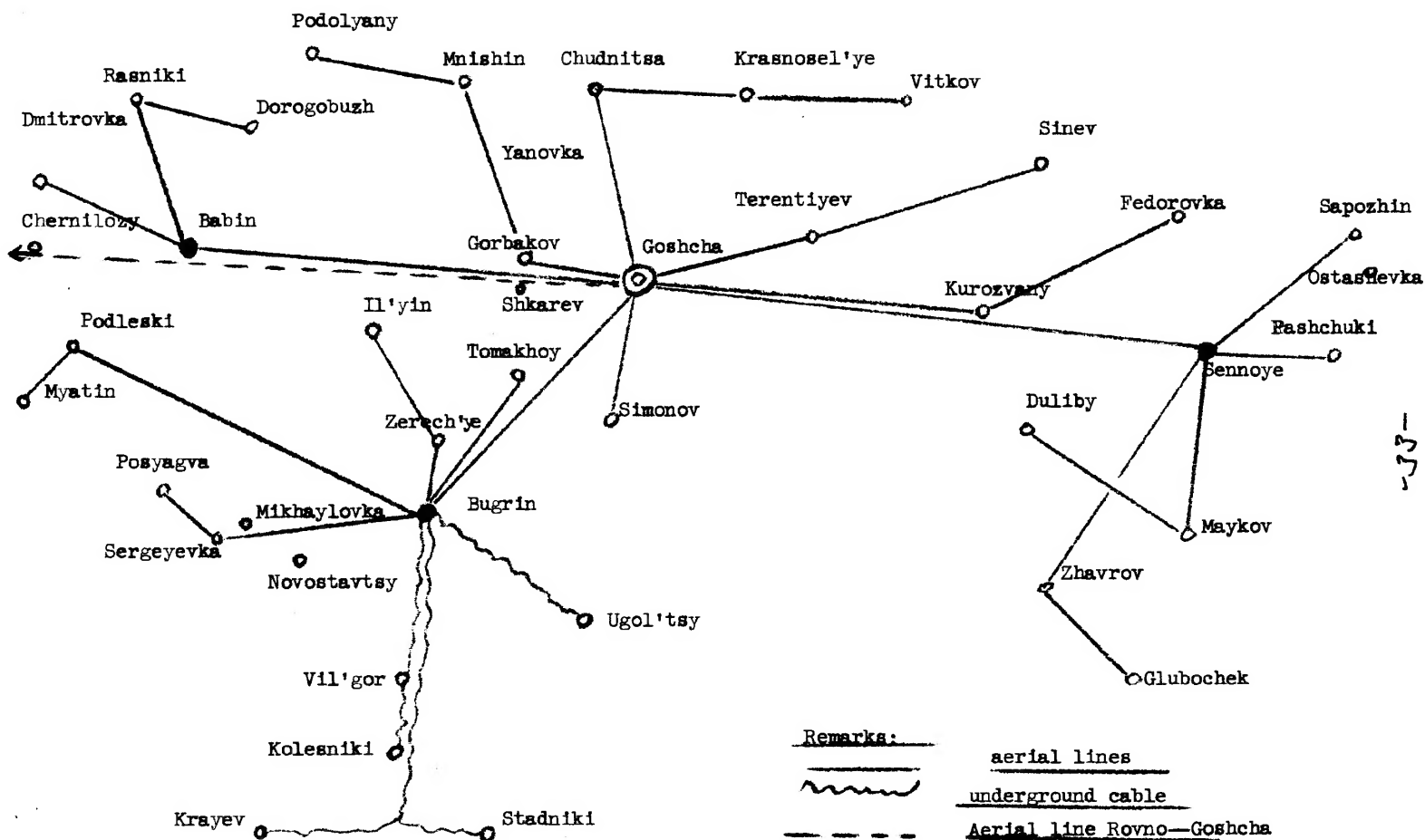
Diagram of the Postal System in Goshchanskiy Rayon



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Diagram of telephone communications of the Goshchanskiy rayon.

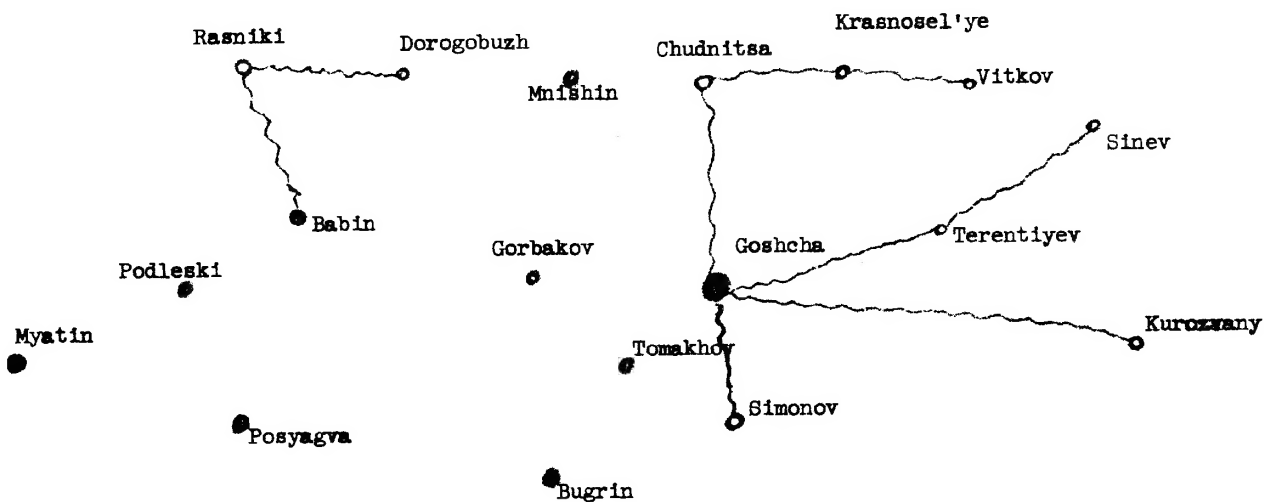


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Points in the Goshchanskiy rayon, having radio broadcasting and receiving units, or connected to sub-
units by underground lines.

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